

**CITY OF DEXTER
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
MEETING MINUTES
September 20, 2016**

The regular meeting of the City of Dexter Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order at 7:01 pm at the City Offices, 8123 Main Street.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Becky Murillo, Michael Cavanaugh, Paul Arnold, Joy Gee (left at 8:34pm), and Ray Tell

Commissioners Absent: Toni Henkemeyer, Anne Marques

Other Present: Justin Breyer, Assistant to the City Manager;

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion by Gee, Seconded by Murillo to approve the minutes from August 23, 2016.
Motion Adopted

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Tell, Seconded by Arnold to approve the agenda as presented.
Motion Adopted

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION

Toni Spears, Webster Township Resident – Spoke about invasive plant species. She expressed concern about Japanese Hedge Parsley, Canada Thistle, and Sweet Clover. The Commission discussed invasive plants. The Commission directed Justin Breyer to have PlantWise put together a report on invasive species control measures.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION

A. CHAIR

Becky Murillo discussed the Huron Waterloo Pathways Initiative. She commented that the railroad has been seeking access to the Bolin Right-of-Way. They have been in discussion with Washtenaw County Parks, MDOT, and the Road Commission. The Committee discussed the Huron Waterloo Pathways Initiative's opportunity to partner with the railroad to construct a segment of the path.

B. COMMISSIONERS AND EX-OFFICIO

Tree Board – None

Ex Officio – A Commission member asked about the annexation of the Kingsley/Sloan property. Ray Tell responded that the City Council has taken the position against aggressive growth. He commented that the talks with the developer and Scio Township are very preliminary.

Art Selection – Justin Breyer reported that the City would be moving forward with the Lion's Sculpture installation, and would be purchasing plaques for that sculpture and the Dragonfly Sculpture.

C. STAFF REPORT

Justin Breyer submitted his report per the packet. He provided an update on several projects, including:

- Provided updates on the Lowe's and AAABoR grants, wetland delineation, pedestrian counters, and Mill Creek Park Work Day.
- The Commission reviewed the proposal for a wheelchair swing and information regarding its lack of appropriateness for public playgrounds. The Commission discussed seeking maximum accessibility when developing or renovating the next City playground.

NEW BUSINESS

A. CONSIDERATION OF: FIRST STREET PARK PLAN – PUBLIC MEETING

Justin Breyer reported that there would be a public input open house on October 9th at First Street Park. He also stated that the interns, Sara and Yuchen, would be handing out flyers at Apple Daze on October 1st.

B. DISCUSSION OF: LIONS PARK BENCH

Justin Breyer reported that with the installation of the Dexter Lions Sculpture, that an existing bench in Lion's Park would need to be moved. The Committee discussed possible locations and determined that the best location would be in the Park along Ann Arbor St. closer to the Dexter Schools building.

C. DISCUSSION OF: PARK SIGNAGE

The Committee reviewed the invoices from previous signage projects and discussed the need for signage at Lions Park and First Street Park. The Committee directed staff to receive estimates and designs for signs that are similar in style to Mill Creek Park and Peace Park. Some ideas for the sign included steel or colored lettering and posting information on the back of the Lions Park sign.

D. DISCUSSION OF: DONATION GUIDELINES

The Committee discussed the draft Donation Acceptance Policy. The Committee wished to further discuss acknowledgements, funding levels, and plaque options. The Committee directed staff to look at the letter requesting donations for Lions Park to determine who should be listed on a plaque/sign in the Park.

E. DISCUSSION OF: MDNR PASSPORT RECREATION GRANT

Justin Breyer presented information about the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Passport Recreation Grant. The Commission discussed the timeline for applying for the grant, the need for a public hearing, and getting cost estimates for the projects.

OLD BUSINESS

A. DISCUSSION OF: PARK MAINTENANCE REQUESTS

The Commission discussed park maintenance needs, including:

- Someone had put up another tire swing in Community Park.
- Need to shade the Lions Park playground with trees.

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION

None

PROPOSED BUSINESS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Arnold, Seconded by Cavanaugh to adjourn the meeting at 9:10pm.

Motion Adopted

Justin Breyer
Assistant to the City Manager